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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/004,384	STRICKHOLM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Peling A. Shaw	2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _22 April 2005_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-100_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-100_ is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) _99_ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _26 August 2002_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Pre-exam amendment received on 08/26/2002 has been entered. Claims 2-100 are new.

Claims 1-100 are still pending. The amended specification changes are reviewed and accepted.

The amended proposed drawing changes are reviewed and accepted. Formal drawing changes

are required before the patent publication.

Priority

2.   This application claims the benefit of 60/245,138 on 11/01/2000. The filing date is

10/31/2001.

Claim objections

3.   Claim 99 is objected to because of the following informalities:

    a.   Item "(g)" is repeated. For the purpose of applying art, the numbering is corrected.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section
> 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent
> or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States
> before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed
> under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application
> designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the
> English language.

Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 34-35, 37-48, 50-57 and 95-98 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sedlar (US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred

as Sedlar.

a. Regarding claim 1, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a

community, the method comprising: (a) establishing a hierarchical structure for

organizing communications between a plurality of users within the community

(column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); (b) distributing control through inherited

parameters of said hierarchical structure to at least one of said plurality of users

(column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); (c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least

a portion of said communications received from said plurality of users from at least

one a plurality of input devices (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); (d) prioritizing

said at least a portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure

(column 36, line15-31); (e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of users

through said at least one of plurality of input devices a selected portion of said

communications stored in said hierarchical structure (column 23, line34-47); and (f)

enabling dynamic interaction by said at least a one of said plurality of users through

said at least one of a plurality of input devices in response to said selected portion of

said communications within said hierarchical structure (column 27, line 11-column

28, line 20).

b. Regarding claim 2, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a

community according to claim 1 wherein said establishing a hierarchical structure

further comprises: creating a top-level hierarchy having at least one top-level subject

(column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); creating at least one mid-level hierarchy, each

of said at least one mid-level hierarchy having at least one mid-level subject related to

at least one of said at least one top-level subject (column 1, line 58-column 2, line

12); and creating a low-level hierarchy having at least one low-level subject related to

at least one of said at least one mid-level subject (column 1, line 58-column 2, line

12), wherein each of said stored communications becomes an item indexed to at least

one of said at least one low-level subject (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20).

c. Regarding claim 3, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a

community according to claim 2 wherein said distributing control through inherited

parameters said hierarchical structure further comprises: assigning at least one top-

level leader for each of said at least one top-level subject (column 27, line 11-column

28, line 20); assigning at least one mid-level leader for each of said at least one mid-

level subject (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20); and assigning at least one low-

level leader for each of said at least one low-level subject (column 27, line 11-column

28, line 20).

d. Regarding claim 4, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a

community according to claim 3 wherein said distributing control through inherited

parameters of said hierarchical structure further comprises: assigning at least one of

said inherited parameters to each of said at least one top-level subject, wherein said at

least one of said inherited parameters controls input or access to a database function

by said at least one top-level leader associated with said at least one top-level subject

(column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48); assigning at least one of said inherited

parameters to each of said at least one mid-level subject, wherein said at least one of

said inherited parameters controls input or access to a database function by said at

least one mid-level leader associated with said at least one mid-level subject (column

35, line 27-column 36, line 48); and assigning at least one of said inherited

parameters to each of said at least one low-level subject, wherein said at least one of

said inherited parameters controls input or access to a database function by said at

least one low-level leader associated with said at least one low-level subject (column

35, line 27-column 36, line 48).

e. Regarding claim 5, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a

community according to claim 4: wherein said at least one of said inherited

parameters assigned to each of said at least one low-level subject inherited from said

at least one mid-level subject related to said at least one low-level subject (column 35,

line 27-column 36, line 48), and further wherein said at least one said inherited

parameters assigned to each of said at least one mid-level subject is inherited from

said at least one top-level subject related to said at least one mid-level subject

(column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48), and further wherein said at least one of said

inherited parameters assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject is inherited

from a web master (column 15, line 55-67; column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48).

f. Regarding claim 6, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a

community according to claim 5: wherein said at least one parameter inherited by

each of said at least one low-level subject the same as, or narrower scope, than said at

least one parameter assigned to each of said at least one mid-level subject related to

said at least one low-level subject (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48), and further wherein said at least one parameter inherited by each of said at least one mid-level subject is the same as, or narrower in scope, than said at least one parameter assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject related to said at least one mid-level subject (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48).

g. Regarding claim 7, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 6: wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject is inherited from a web master (column 15, line 55-67; column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48), and further wherein said at least one parameter inherited by each of said at least one top-level subject is the same as, or narrower in scope, than said at least one parameter assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject by said web master (column 15, line 55-67; column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48).

h. Regarding claim 8, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 7: wherein each of said inherited parameters comprises a one of a privacy parameter, screening parameter, input parameter, user ID parameter, and an approval parameter (column 11, line 21-41).

i. Regarding claim 9, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 8: wherein each of said inherited parameters has at least one access level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least one access level provides more management control than a lower one of each of said at least one access level (column 11, line 21-62).

j. Regarding claim 10, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 7 wherein said distributing control through inherited parameters of said hierarchical structure further comprises: allowing said at least one top-level leader associated with said at least one top-level subject, said at least one mid-level leader associated with said at least one mid-level subject, and said at least one low-level leader associated with said at least one mid-level subject, to change respectively said at least one access level of said inherited parameters at any time (column 11, line 21-62).

k. Regarding claim 12, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing communications further comprises: utilizing database for establishing said hierarchical structure (column 6, line 43-column 7, line21), wherein said at least a portion of said communications are stored in said hierarchical structure in said database (column 16, line 55-63).

l. Regarding claim 13, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 12 further comprising: recording and storing a communication from a user in said database when said user is not accessing said database at the time said communication is initiated (column 16, line 55-63).

m. Regarding claim 14, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 14 wherein said at least one item type is a one of an idea, question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item (column 27, line 24-61).

n. Regarding claim 15, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 14 wherein said at least one item type is a one of an idea, question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item (column 27, line 24-61).

o. Regarding claim 16, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said presenting a selected portion of said communications further comprises: filtering said at least a portion of said communications yielding a filtered portion of communications (column 23, line 34-47); consolidating said filtered portion of communications yielding a consolidated portion of communications (column 23, line 34-47); sorting said consolidated portion of communications yielding a sorted portion of communications (column 23, line 34-47); and presenting said sorted portion of communications according to a predetermined level of content review (column 23, line 34-47)

p. Regarding claim 18, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling dynamic interaction further comprises: alerting said at least one said plurality users to an activity within the community, wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical structure, a response from an individual user within the community, a response from any one of a member of a group of users within the community, a new posting from an individual user within the community, and a new posting from any one of a member of a group of users within the community (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20).

q. Regarding claim 19, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling dynamic interaction further comprises: alerting said at least one of said plurality of users to a message within the community, wherein said message is sent to at least a one of a home page of said at least one of said plurality of users, to an e-mail account of said at least one of said plurality of users, to a voice mail box of said at least one of said plurality of users, and to some other type of communications device of said at least one of said plurality of users (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20).

r. Regarding claim 20, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling dynamic interaction further comprises: alerting a select group of others within the community to an activity or a message of said at least one of said plurality of users, wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical structure, a response from said at least one of said plurality of users, a new posting from said at least one of said plurality of users, and further wherein said message is sent to at least a one of a home page of said select group of others within the community, to an e-mail account of said select group of others within the community, to a voice mail box of said select group of others within the community, and to some other type of communications device of said select group of others within the community (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20)

s. Claims 21, 28, 30-31 and 34 are of the same scope as claims 1-3, 16 and 20. These are rejected for the same reason as for claims 1-3, 16 and 20.

t. Regarding claim 24, Sedlar disclosed a computer system for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein said application further comprises: a content access interface for determining current hierarchical structure of said database accessible by said plurality of users (column 11, line 21-62); an authorization module for authorizing each of said plurality of users to access a portion of said plurality of communications stored in said database to which each of said plurality of users have access rights and in conjunction with said inherited parameters responsibility module (column 11, line 21-62); an interaction control module for determining a dynamic interaction capability for said plurality of users with said plurality of communications stored in said database which said plurality of users have access rights in conjunction with said inherited parameters responsibility module (column 11, line 21-62); and a content prioritizing interface for sorting and prioritizing the order said plurality of communications are presented to each of said plurality of users for review (column 36, line15-31).

u. Regarding claim 25, Sedlar disclosed a computer system for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 21 further comprising: a recording module accessible by said plurality communication devices (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12), wherein said recording module, after a user input is received in a one of said plurality communication devices on a record option, queries said database causing said database to deliver said one said plurality communication devices said hierarchical structure of said plurality of communications (column 23, line34-47), and further wherein said recording module receives a user selection input

of a topic within said hierarchical structure with which to associate a communication

from said one of said plurality of communication devices (column 23, line34-47), and

further wherein said recording module records and stores in said database said

communication sent from said one of said plurality of communication devices

(column 23, line34-47).

    v. Regarding claim 27, Sedlar disclosed a computer system for enhancing

communication within a community according to claim 25 wherein said recording

module resides on said application and is accessed over a communication channel by

user input on said record option selected from a tool bar displayed on said one of said

plurality of communication devices (column 11, line 21-62).

    w. Claims 35, 37-48 and 50-57 are of the same scope as claims 1-5, 9, 14-15, 18-20 and

24. These are rejected for the same reason as for claims 1-5, 9, 14-15, 18-20 and 24.

    x. Claims 95-98 is of the same scope of claims 1 and 18-20. These are rejected for the

same reasons as for claims 1 and 18-20.

Sedlar disclosed all limitations of claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 34-35, 37-

48, 50-57 and 95-98. Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 34-35, 37-48, 50-57

and 95-98 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or
> described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter
> sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have
> been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art

to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 36 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar

(US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar as applied to claim 1 above, and further in

view of Dennis et al. (US 6466932 B1), hereinafter referred as Dennis.

a. Sedlar shows (claim 1) a method for enhancing communication within a community,

the method comprising: (a) establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing

communications between a plurality of users within the community (column 1, line

58-column 2, line 12); (b) distributing control through inherited parameters of said

hierarchical structure to at least one of said plurality of users (column 1, line 58-

column 2, line 12); (c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least a portion of said

communications received from said plurality of users from at least one a plurality of

input devices (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); (d) prioritizing said at least a

portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure (column 36, line15-

31); (e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one

of plurality of input devices a selected portion of said communications stored in said

hierarchical structure (column 23, line34-47); and (f) enabling dynamic interaction by

said at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of

input devices in response to said selected portion of said communications within said

hierarchical structure (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20). Sedlar does not show

(claim 11) wherein said distributing control through inherited parameters said

hierarchical structure further comprises: assigning an access status to each of said

plurality of users, wherein said access status comprises a one of an inclusive access

and an exclusive access, and further wherein said inclusive access allows access to each of said stored communications said hierarchical structure except where excluded by said inherited parameters, and further wherein said exclusive access allows access to each of said stored communications in said hierarchical structure only where explicitly assigned.

b. Dennis shows (claim 11) wherein said distributing control through inherited parameters said hierarchical structure further comprises: assigning an access status to each of said plurality of users (column 13, line 5-36), wherein said access status comprises a one of an inclusive access and an exclusive access (column 13, line 5-36), and further wherein said inclusive access allows access to each of said stored communications said hierarchical structure except where excluded by said inherited parameters (column 13, line 5-36), and further wherein said exclusive access allows access to each of said stored communications in said hierarchical structure only where explicitly assigned (column 13, line 5-36) in an analogous art for the purpose of implementing group policy. Claims 36 and 49 are of the same scope as claim 11.

c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Sedlar's functions of event notification system tied to a file system with Dennis' functions of access control.

d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have more explicit access control per Dennis' teaching in addition to a hierarchical access and event functions per Sedlar's teaching.

Together Sedlar and Dennis disclosed all limitations of claims 11, 36 and 49. Claims 11, 36

and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6.   Claims 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar

(US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view

of Gilchrist et al. (US 6081832 A), hereinafter referred as Gilchrist.

    a. Sedlar shows (claim 1) a method for enhancing communication within a community,

       the method comprising: (a) establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing

       communications between a plurality of users within the community (column 1, line

       58-column 2, line 12); (b) distributing control through inherited parameters of said

       hierarchical structure to at least one of said plurality of users (column 1, line 58-

       column 2, line 12); (c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least a portion of said

       communications received from said plurality of users from at least one a plurality of

       input devices (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); (d) prioritizing said at least a

       portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure (column 36, line15-

       31); (e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one

       of plurality of input devices a selected portion of said communications stored in said

       hierarchical structure (column 23, line34-47); and (f) enabling dynamic interaction by

       said at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of

       input devices in response to said selected portion of said communications within said

       hierarchical structure (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20). Sedlar does not show

       (claim 17) wherein said storing in said hierarchical structure further comprises:

       attaching a resource to at least one of said at least a portion of said communications,

wherein said resource is a one of an internal database link, a document/file

attachment, and an external Internet link.

b. Gilchrist shows (claim 17) wherein said storing in said hierarchical structure further

comprises: attaching a resource to at least one of said at least a portion of said

communications, wherein said resource is a one of an internal database link, a

document/file attachment, and an external Internet link (column 15, line 43-58;

column 22, line 58-column 23, line 13) in an analogous art for the purpose of object

oriented mail server framework mechanism. Claim 29 is of the same scope as claim

17.

c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention was made to modify Sedlar's functions of event notification system tied to

a file system with Gilchrist's functions of attachment.

d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art

would have been motivated to have message attachment per Gilchrist's teaching in

addition to a hierarchical access and event functions per Sedlar's teaching.

Together Sedlar and Gilchrist disclosed all limitations of claims 17 and 29. Claims 17 and 29

are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 22-23, 26 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Sedlar (US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar as applied to claims 1, 21 and 25

above, and further in view of Underwood (US 6718535 B1), hereinafter referred as Underwood.

a. Sedlar shows (claim 1) a method for enhancing communication within a community,

the method comprising: (a) establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing

communications between a plurality of users within the community (column 1, line

58-column 2, line 12); (b) distributing control through inherited parameters of said

hierarchical structure to at least one of said plurality of users (column 1, line 58-

column 2, line 12); (c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least a portion of said

communications received from said plurality of users from at least one a plurality of

input devices (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); (d) prioritizing said at least a

portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure (column 36, line15-

31); (e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one

of plurality of input devices a selected portion of said communications stored in said

hierarchical structure (column 23, line34-47); and (f) enabling dynamic interaction by

said at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of

input devices in response to said selected portion of said communications within said

hierarchical structure (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20); (claim 25) further

comprising: a recording module accessible by said plurality communication devices

(column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12), wherein said recording module, after a user

input is received in a one of said plurality communication devices on a record option,

queries said database causing said database to deliver said one said plurality

communication devices said hierarchical structure of said plurality of

communications (column 23, line34-47), and further wherein said recording module

receives a user selection input of a topic within said hierarchical structure with which

to associate a communication from said one of said plurality of communication

devices (column 23, line34-47), and further wherein said recording module records

and stores in said database said communication sent from said one of said plurality of

communication devices (column 23, line34-47). Claim 21 is of the same scope as

claim 1. Sedlar does not show (claim 22) wherein said application platform is a one of

a centralized application platform architecture and a distributed application platform

architecture (column 1, line 47, column 2, line 32), wherein said distributed

application platform architecture has a plurality of databases for storing distributively

said plurality of communications (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line

16-57); (claim 23) further comprising: for said distributed application platform

architecture, an inherited parameters synchronization module for determining a one of

a plurality of application platforms of said distributed application platform that

contains a portion of said plurality of communications sought by a one of said

plurality of users, and for routing said one of said plurality of users to said one of a

plurality of application platforms (column 1, line 47, column 2, line 32); and a

content synchronization module for exchanging and synchronizing content between

said plurality of databases (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-

57); (claim 26) wherein said recording module resides on said one of said plurality of

communication devices (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57);

(claim 32) wherein said reviewing module further comprises: a customized interactive

reviewing module for creating digital binder, wherein said customized interactive

reviewing module allows each of said plurality of users to aggregate in said digital

binder a specific portion of said plurality communications most useful to each of said

plurality of users; (claim 33) wherein said input module and said thread

synchronization module update said digital binder in real time with new content

received in said application related to said specific portion of said plurality of

communications aggregated in said digital binder.

b. Underwood shows (claim 22) wherein said application platform is a one of a

centralized application platform architecture and a distributed application platform

architecture (column 1, line 47, column 2, line 32), wherein said distributed

application platform architecture has a plurality of databases for storing distributively

said plurality of communications (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line

16-57); (claim 23) further comprising: for said distributed application platform

architecture, an inherited parameters synchronization module for determining a one of

a plurality of application platforms of said distributed application platform that

contains a portion of said plurality of communications sought by a one of said

plurality of users, and for routing said one of said plurality of users to said one of a

plurality of application platforms (column 1, line 47, column 2, line 32); and a

content synchronization module for exchanging and synchronizing content between

said plurality of databases (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-

57); (claim 26) wherein said recording module resides on said one of said plurality of

communication devices (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57);

(claim 32) wherein said reviewing module further comprises: a customized interactive

reviewing module for creating digital binder, wherein said customized interactive

reviewing module allows each of said plurality of users to aggregate in said digital

binder a specific portion of said plurality communications most useful to each of said

plurality of users (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57); (claim

33) wherein said input module and said thread synchronization module update said

digital binder in real time with new content received in said application related to said

specific portion of said plurality of communications aggregated in said digital binder

(column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57) in an analogous art for the

purpose of an activity framework design in an e-commerce based environment.

c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention was made to modify Sedlar's functions of event notification system tied to

a file system with Underwood's functions of client/server distributed information

database.

d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art

would have been motivated to have distributive information database functions per

Underwood's teaching in addition to a hierarchical access and event functions per

Sedlar's teaching.

Together Sedlar and Underwood disclosed all limitations of claims 22-23, 26 and 32-33.

Claims 22-23, 26 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8.   Claims 99-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar (US

6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in

view of Beams et al. (US 6611822 B1), hereinafter referred as Beams.

a. Sedlar shows (claim 1) a method for enhancing communication within a community,

the method comprising: (a) establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing

communications between a plurality of users within the community (column 1, line

58-column 2, line 12); (b) distributing control through inherited parameters of said

hierarchical structure to at least one of said plurality of users (column 1, line 58-

column 2, line 12); (c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least a portion of said

communications received from said plurality of users from at least one a plurality of

input devices (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); (d) prioritizing said at least a

portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure (column 36, line15-

31); (e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one

of plurality of input devices a selected portion of said communications stored in said

hierarchical structure (column 23, line34-47); and (f) enabling dynamic interaction by

said at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of

input devices in response to said selected portion of said communications within said

hierarchical structure (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20); (claim 18) wherein

said enabling dynamic interaction further comprises: alerting said at least one said

plurality users to an activity within the community, wherein said activity is a one of a

topic within said hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical structure,

a response from an individual user within the community, a response from any one of

a member of a group of users within the community, a new posting from an

individual user within the community, and a new posting from any one of a member

of a group of users within the community (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20).

Claim 96 is of the same scope as claims 1 and 18. Sedlar does not show (claim 99)

wherein step (f) replaced by the following new step (f) and further comprising the

steps (g) through (i): (f) setting a deadline for rapid feedback evaluation of at least

one item type; (g) selecting a type of response for said rapid feedback evaluation of

said at least one item type; (g) selecting a group of users to respond to said rapid

feedback evaluation of said at least one item type; (h) sending said at least one item

type and said selected type of response to said selected group of users; and (i)

receiving a plurality of said selected type of response from said selected group of

users to said at least one item type.

b. Beams shows (claim 99) wherein step (f) replaced by the following new step (f) and

further comprising the steps (g) through (i): (f) setting a deadline for rapid feedback

evaluation of at least one item type (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45); (g) selecting a

type of response for said rapid feedback evaluation of said at least one item type (Fig.

12; column 12, line 4-45); (g) selecting a group of users to respond to said rapid

feedback evaluation of said at least one item type (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45); (h)

sending said at least one item type and said selected type of response to said selected

group of users (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45); and (i) receiving a plurality of said

selected type of response from said selected group of users to said at least one item

type (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45) in an analogous art for the purpose of creating

collaborative application sharing.

c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention was made to modify Sedlar's functions of event notification system tied to

a file system with Beams's functions of feedback.

    d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have feedback system per Underwood's teaching in addition to a hierarchical access and event functions per Sedlar's teaching.

    e. Regarding claim 100, Sedlar shows (column 27, line 24-61) wherein said at least one item type is a one of an idea, question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item.

Together Sedlar and Beams disclosed all limitations of claims 99-100. Claims 99-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9.   Claims 58-69 are of the same scope as claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-15, 24, 27 and 32-33. These are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-15, 24, 27 and 32-33.

10.   Claims 70-80 are of the same scope as claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-16 and 24. These are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-16 and 24.

11.   Claims 81-95 are of the same scope as claims 1-3, 16-17, 20, 22-27 and 32-33. These are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-3, 16-17, 20, 22-27 and 32-33.

Remarks

12.   The following pertaining arts are discovered and not used in this office action. Office reserves the right to use these arts in later actions.

    a. Schneider et al. (US 6105027 A) Techniques for eliminating redundant access checking by access filters

    b. Du et al. (US 6308163 B1) System and method for enterprise workflow resource management

    c. Bowman-Amuah (US 6697824 B1) Relationship management in an E-commerce application framework
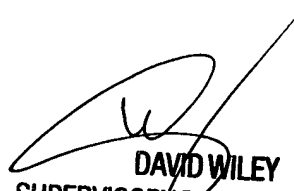
Conclusion

13.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. Refer to the enclosed PTO-892 for details.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Peling A. Shaw whose telephone number is (571) 272-7968. The

examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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